

The Jacobsburg Record

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A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This is the season of the year when we count our many blessings and give thanks for them. Personally, I have so many people and things to be thankful for that I can never fully appreciate them. And that is the way I feel about the Jacobsburg Historical Society. We have been so abundantly blessed in our very fine, interested, and eager membership! I never cease to be thankful for you all! Without you we could not have accomplished the many worthwhile projects we have accomplished during the past year. We have kept you abreast with our activities in our 'Jacobsburg Record' so I will not enumerate our accomplishments. But we again thank you for a successful year!

I must give special tribute to our officers and Board of Directors, committee chairmen and committee members who have worked so tirelessly. We regret that Kitty Fluck, our membership chairman, feels unable to continue her work. You will remember the splendid job she did in recruiting members when we organized our society. Also, our hospitality chairman, Peggy Shuttleworth, has asked to be replaced. We shall not forget the gracious hospitality offered to us at our meetings and our open house. Thank you, Kitty and Peggy.

We are very happy to welcome to our Board Janet (Mrs. Geary A.) Gum, of Nazareth, who will be our new Membership Chairman. And, also, our new Hospitality Chairman, Judy Sandercock (Mrs. Robert Sandercock), of Easton. We appreciate your willingness to serve the Society.

I wish you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. I am very grateful to you all.

Katherine S. Beers
President

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH -- THE HENRY FAMILY

By Charles M. Sandwick, Sr.

Previous articles have presented in some detail the biographies and family histories of Jacob Christ and Jacob Eyerle, Jr., who were partners with William Henry in the purchase in 1790 from the heirs of Jacob Hubler of about 400 acres of land which now comprise Jacobsburg State Park. The present article will begin a series regarding William Henry of Nazareth and those of his descendants who have been identified with the history of the early industrial enterprises in Jacobsburg and Eoolton.

William Henry was born in Lancaster, Pa., 12 March 1757, son of William and Ann (Wood) Henry. The parents had converted to the Moravian denomination in Lancaster. William Henry, father of 'cur' William, was prominent in many fields. A summary of his career abstracted from notes of John Woolf Jordan, of Philadelphia, has this to say about him: "He was armorer to the Braddock and Forbes expeditions against Fort Duquesne; Assistant Commissary General in the Revolution; member of the Pennsylvania Assembly; treasurer of Lancaster County, Pa.; and a member of the Continental Congress." He was also an inventor. At the age of fifteen he was apprenticed to Matthias Roessor, of Lancaster, to learn the gunsmith's trade.

William Henry, oldest of seven children of William and Ann (Wood) Henry, like his father, was apprenticed early to learn the trade of gunsmith, beginning under Andrew Albright, gunmaker of Lititz, Pa., and completing his training at Christian's Spring, near Nazareth. In 1780 he sought and obtained permission to build a residence and gunshop in Nazareth. The

following year, 22 Nov. 1781, he married Sabina Shropp, who was born in Nazareth, 5 Nov. 1759, daughter of Matthew and Anna Maria (Thome) Schropp. (In some records, the maiden name of Sabina's mother has the French spelling, Tomet.)

William and Sabina (Schropp) Henry had nine children, all born in Nazareth: (1) Elizabeth, b. 16 Oct. 1782, d. 15 Dec. 1844; m. Nazareth 23 Aug. 1804, John Jordan of Philadelphia, b. Alexander Township, Hunterdon County, N.J., 1 Sept. 1770, son of Friedrich and Catherina (Eckel) Jordan. (2) Anna, b. 29 Sept. 1784, d. 22 Aug. 1801. (3) John Joseph, b. 17 June 1786, d. Boulton, Bushkill Twp., 2 Dec. 1836; m. 19 Nov. 1808, Maria Rebecca Smith, b. 22 Sept. 1785; d. 17 June 1871. (4) Johanna Maria, b. 6 May 1788, d. Bethlehem, 8 Apr. 1858; m. Bethlehem, 29 Nov. 1811, Rev. Andrew Benade, b. Kleinwelke, Saxony, 20 Feb. 1769, d. Bethlehem 31 Oct. 1859; son of Andreas and Maria (Retschke) Benade. (5) Matthew Schropp, b. 10 Aug. 1790, d. Philadelphia, 20 Jan. 1862; m. (1) Easton, Pa., 6 May 1819, his cousin Ann Catharine Henry, b. 12 Mar. 1794, d. Jacobsburg 25 Feb. 1833, dau. of Abraham and Elizabeth (Martin) Henry; m. (2) Easton, Pa., 16 July 1833, Esther Tyrill Berg, b. St. Johns, Antigua, W.I., 27 Dec. 1809, d. Easton 20 Feb. 1854, dau. of Christian Frederick and Hannah Robinson (Tempest) Berg. (6) Sabina, b. 4 Aug. 1792, d. Bethlehem, 22 Mar. 1859; m. 28 Sept. 1809, John Frederick Wolle, b. St. Johns, Antigua, W.I., 20 Nov. 1785, d. 24 Apr. 1860; son of Peter and Anna Rosina (Geyer) Wolle. (7) William, b. 15 Aug. 1794, d. Wyoming, Pa., 23 May 1878; bur. Forty Fort; m. (1) 23 Mar. 1817, Mary Barbara Albright, of Shippensburg, Pa., b. 21 June 1799; d. Scranton, Pa., 5 Mar. 1842, dau. of Henry and Anna Barbara (Hubley) Albright; m. (2) 26 Sept. 1842, Sarah Atherton, of Wilkesbarre, b. 21 Oct. 1814. (8) Jane, b. 5 July 1796, d. 22 Jan 1797. (9) Edward, b. 29 July 1799, d. 6 Apr. 1800.

"Billy" Henry's gunsmith factory in Nazareth was not too popular with the local residents. The chief objection was to the frequent shooting of the guns produced or repaired there for the purpose of testing them. Another factor was the uneasy pacifist conscience of many Moravians because guns were being produced not only for hunting, but also for the purpose of arming the militia. Mr. Henry himself became dissatisfied with the inadequate water power available in the village and sought more suitable locations along the Bushkill Creek.

In 1792 William Henry erected a factory at Jacobsburg to manufacture several thousand muskets for which he had contracted with the Governor of Pennsylvania. This building was later converted into a grist mill. In 1808 he erected a forge for the manufacture of bar iron. The first bar of iron produced in Northampton County was made at Henry's forge in Jacobsburg, on the 12th of May, 1809.

In 1812, Mr. Henry began the construction of a gun factory on the Bushkill Creek about one mile downstream from Jacobsburg. The new location was given the name of Boulton. Operating under a partnership of John Joseph Henry and William Henry, Jr., sons of William and Sabina (Schropp) Henry, this factory began making rifle and musket barrels, locks, bayonets and other parts in 1813, which were sent to Philadelphia for assembly. The shop in Philadelphia was managed by John Joseph Henry, the one in Boulton by William Henry, Jr.

Their father died in 1821 and the following year William Henry, Jr., sold his interest to his brother, John Joseph, and moved to Stroudsburg. About 1824, John Joseph moved to Boulton and consolidated the enterprise in the one location, employing at one time nearly a hundred workmen.

The Henry Gun Factory passed from John Joseph Henry to his only son, James Henry, and afterward to the latter's oldest son, Granville Henry, who operated the gun works until 1895, when it finally went out of business.

William Henry's prominence in Nazareth and Northampton County was not limited to his role as a pioneer gunmaker. He was also a carpenter by trade and made the plans for a number of buildings including some in Nazareth which are still standing.

On January 14, 1788, William Henry was commissioned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to serve as justice of the peace. Subsequently he was appointed judge of the courts of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Northampton County. In 1792 he was elected a presidential elector and cast his vote for a second term for George Washington. In 1795 he was appointed one of the commissioners to erect the first bridge over the Delaware River at Easton. In 1797 he headed a commission created by Congress to locate a section of public land near Gnadenhuetten, Ohio, to be given to the Moravian Church as recompense for the losses it had sustained in the Revolutionary War.

William Henry died at Philadelphia November 22, 1781. His widow, Sabina (Schropp) Henry, died in Bethlehem May 8, 1848. They and their descendants have left an indelible mark on the history of Northampton County.

(Editor's Note: For those members who live outside the coverage area of the Easton Express, or who did not see the issue of November 6, Charles Sandwick was installed as president of the Valley Forge Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution that same day. Quoting the article referred to: "Sandwick has been, in the past, the vice president of the chapter, a historian and genealogist. He is a member of the board of directors of the Northampton County Historical Society and also the Jacobsburg Historical Society." Nationally he is a member of the Committee on Patriotic Education of the National SAR, an associate of the National Archives, and a member of several other historical and genealogical societies in New York and New Jersey. And, he is 'our' Charles.)

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MORE ABOUT THE 'DIGS' (Continued from Last Month)

(Imagine our delight when we discovered . . .) A PUMP! There was a three-inch hole through the center of the log. In the hole was a piston with intake and output valves still capable of working. The leather patches covering the two openings were in excellent condition, as was the leather cup enclosing the upper portion of the piston. The rod was only about eight inches long and appeared to have been broken. The footer and header valves were made of wood. We assume it was powered by a water wheel. The flat end of the cylinder had three one inch by four inch pieces of wood nailed to it, to raise it above the floor level to allow the entry of water to be removed from the bottom of the vat. It was rather amusing to see J.A. (that's Joe) cleaning out the bore of the pump with our extremely large Jacobsburg burdock plants. (These same plants were used to conceal our wheelbarrow overnight.)

As the remainder of the silt was removed from our four-foot deep well, the opening into the vat was revealed at the level of the 22-foot long north side water pipe. In the lower half of the vat we found a beautiful ladder (J.A.: 'crummy') propped against the west wall. The rungs were hand-made and fitted through the posts. The posts were three inches square and had their four corners removed to make them quite smooth. We kept the ladder in the bottom of the drainage well several days because water kept dripping into the area. Eventually it was placed in plastic garbage bags and joined the plastic-wrapped piston in the cool cellar at the Homestead. The cylinder part of the pump was buried in tanning bark, with an appropriate marker, in the floor of the tannery. We felt very sad when it came time to refill all the open areas. It was reminiscent of a funeral and we couldn't help wondering if we would ever see the water pipes again. But we had to keep them from drying out and being destroyed altogether.

In the northwest corner of the tannery (that corner where we found a bushel of cowhorns in 1973) there were no vats. The clay was above vat level and very hard to dig. The color was red-yellow and we are sure it had been subjected to intense heat. Underneath our entrance door-sill the stones did not seem to be as well placed as in the remainder of the wall. They were easily removed from the inside without disturbing the huge sill rock. The soil surrounding these rocks

had been quite disturbed, though few artifacts were found there. When our backhoe returned we excavated a sixteen-foot trench outside of the doorway. An opening about a foot square crossed the trench at a 30° angle in a northwest-southeast direction. A two-inch by one-foot board was on the bottom of the 'tunnel' and we think it was about twenty-five feet long. (We inserted shovel handles). We have not definitely decided its purpose. Later the backhoe returned and extended this trench, and as the operator did so he dislodged another stone wall twenty feet from the west tannery wall — more of this later.

The next to the last day of our summer's work we had the backhoe work in the area to the east of the tannery. There was a large accumulation of stones, indicative of the foundation of another stone building. Our operator soon discovered the remaining undisturbed foundation of a stone building 24 feet wide by 50 feet long. Very little work has been done there, but because of two artifacts found we are calling this the stable. There were pieces of ceramics found in the loose dirt turned over by the power shovel, which were identified by Patti Kenyon as the oldest ones at the site.

We were very fortunate in having very talented youngsters on our crew this summer. One fourteen-year-old made our sieves. Another drew sketches of our walls. And the drawings of our vats, pumps and plugs are truly done by an engineer. These were all on display at our annual meeting.

See you at the digs (???)

V. P. Lopresti

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Research Committee Meeting — Monday, November 15, 1976 — 7:30 P. M. at the home of Charles and Jesse Sandwick.

Board Meeting — Wednesday, December 1, 1976 — 8:00 P.M. at the home of the President.

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HOW WE LIKED OUR ANNUAL MEETING!!

It is regrettable that space does not allow for the full coverage of our annual meeting which it surely deserves, but while the new dimension added this year — food — can in no sense be termed an experiment, unquestionably, had it been an experiment it was a successful one, and well deserving of being repeated. More than eighty members and guests were present on Tuesday, October 26 at Stockertown's Memorial Hall, and responded 'with gusto' to the good fare provided them by what must surely be some of the best home cooking cooks in the world. The intent of the unprecedented culinary additive was, as we know, to honor our hard-working husband and wife team of archaeologists, Joseph and Virginia Lopresti, and to give recognition to their unfailing work in the field, in the archives, and in public records, since the very beginning of the Jacobsburg project. Not only have their labors been outstanding, but because of it we were enabled to secure our grant of \$11,460 from the Pennsylvania Bicentennial Commission for further research. This remarkable team has worked throughout without compensation and as a result we were able to take credit, on the basis of their work, for the \$3,600 matching funds which the Society was required to contribute. They were presented by our vice president Joe DiGerlando, in Colonial costume including no-run hose, on behalf of the Society with appropriate gifts. Virginia gave a presentation of color slides of the various phases of the digging and explained their significance, apologizing for not yet having had the time to arrange them in coordination with an accompanying narrative. On display was a long table of artifacts from the digs, which also displayed the drawings done by our young summer helpers. Of exceptional interest, also, was a display of models of three old Jacobsburg structures, created in detail and to scale by Mrs. Margaret Stocker, of the research committee. All of these buildings — the hotel, the Matthew S. Henry home and the gun barrel house have vanished.

DIRECTORY

Catherine S. Beers — President

Easton (253-4547)

Joseph DiGerlando — Vice President

Jacobsburg (759-7239)

Hilton Rahn — Secretary

Bethlehem (868-1789)

Margaret Taylor — Treasurer

Easton (252-1315)

DIRECTORS:

Mary DeRaymond — Open House

Nazareth (759-2820)

Janet Gum — Membership

Nazareth (759-1862)

Joseph Lopresti — Archaeology

Stockertown (759-1580)

Lorraine Mineo — Natural Garden

Nazareth (759-0867)

Charles Sandwick, Sr. — Research

Easton (252-1290)

Martin A. Smith — Editor, The Jacobsburg Record

Easton (253-2293)

Mary Henry Stites — Homestead Grounds

Boulton (759-4693)

Albert Toth — Maintenance and Repairs

Belfast (759-2153)

COMMITTEES:

Bobbie DiGerlando — Craft Fair

Jacobsburg (759-7239)

Virginia Lopresti — Archaeology

Stockertown (759-1580)

Judy Sandercock — Hospitality

Easton (258-3806)

Joy Nathan — Publicity

Easton (253-7532)

John M. Dickey, A.I.A. — Consultant

Media, Pa.

Dr. Lee Graver — Archivist

Nazareth (759-3132)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Student — \$2.50

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Please return this application with your check made payable to Jacobsburg Historical Society, and mail to:

Miss Margaret H. Taylor, Treasurer
733 Paxinosa Avenue
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All contributions are TAX DEDUCTABLE to the extent provided by law.